

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 095266 TOSEC 100085

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O A.OTTO

APPROVED BY S/S-O A.OTTO

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P 201012Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 095266 TOSEC 100085

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEATS AMMAN 2101 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV
DAMASCUS 20 APR 6

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 2101

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SENATOR MATHIAS

1. SENATOR MATHIAS, BEFORE HE LEFT AMMAN MORNING APRIL 20,
ASKED ME TO PASS ON THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM HIM TO YOU:

2. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT ASAD EXPRESSED WARM PERSONAL
REGARD FOR YOU AFTER CONCLUSION MEETING ON SUNDAY, BUT
STRONG TONE OF HIS OFFICIAL REMARKS AND IMPRESSIONS
RECEIVED IN JORDAN SUGGEST, SUBJECT TO AMBASSADOR
MURPHY'S ADVICE, THAT YOU CONVEY FEELING YOU EXPRESSED
TO ME THAT A SYRIAN SOLUTION WITHOUT SYRIAN ARMS IS
ACCEPTABLE. KING HUSSEIN ADVISES THAT HE WILL MEET
ASAD WITHIN A WEEK, BUT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO
CORRECT ASAD MISCONCEPTIONS PRIOR TO THAT TIME.
END TEXT.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 095266 TOSEC 100085

3. SENATOR AND I BRIEFLY DISCUSSED PRESS REPORTS WHICH COVERED PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT WELCOMING SYRIAN AND ISRAELI RESTRAINT IN LEBANON AS WELL AS NESSEN'S STATEMENT WHICH TALKED ABOUT SYRIAN APPROACH AND ATTITUDE.

4. AS SENATOR NOTED, KING WILL BE PLANNING A TRIP TO DAMASCUS AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK AND COULD REINFORCE FURTHER ANY STATEMENT WHICH WE MIGHT WISH TO MAKE TO ASAD DIRECTLY THROUGH AMBASSADOR MURPHY. KING, PRIME MINISTER AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF BIN SHAKER ALL REFLECTED UNCERTAINTIES AND SUSPICIONS WHICH ASAD CONVEYED DIRECTLY TO SENATOR MATHIAS. I PRESUME THIS GROWN OUT OF HIS TALK WITH SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF SHAHABI WHO WAS HERE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR JORDANIANS. SINCE ASAD'S CONCERNS ANTEDATE PREVIOUS MESSAGES PASSED THROUGH JORDAN SOME WEEKS AGO, I WOULD LIKE TO REINFORCE SENATOR'S MESSAGE WITH MY OWN COMMENTS THAT JORDANIANS HAVE INDEED REFLECTED THEMSELVES A SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE SYRIAN REACTION TO OUR ROLE AND EFFORTS IN LEBANON.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: PLEASE SHOW THIS CABLE TO SENATOR MATHIAS.
PICKERING UNQUOTE ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, ARBITRATION, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE095266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O A.OTTO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760148-1028
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760442/aaaabjtk.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SENATOR MATHIAS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SY, JO, LE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (MATHIAS, CHARLES)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006